

NOV 01 2001

2001  
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST PASTOR'S CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 29

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

OCTOBER 18, 2001

VOL. 125

No. 36

11

# Record

## JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

# Miss. Baptist Pastor's Conference slated

JACKSON, Miss. (Special) — Mississippi Baptist pastors and church staffers will gather October 29 at First Church, Jackson, for the 2001 Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference.

Conference President Daryl Oster announced that the theme of the conference, held each year on the day before the convening of the Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting, is Standing on the Promises.

Scheduled to speak at the conference are:

- ◆ Chuck Herring, pastor of First Church, Richland.
- ◆ Tom Atwood, pastor of First Church, Oxford.
- ◆ Fred Wolfe, president of Barnabas Ministries in Brandon and interim pastor of Crossgates Church, Brandon.

Herring ◆ Bob Pittman, pastor of Kirby Woods Church, Memphis.

◆ Richard Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Nashville.

Scott Griffin, minister of music at Eton Church, Mantee, will lead the Celebration in Song segments. Special music will be presented by music evangelist Steve Walker; Joseph Oster, minister of music at Harmony Church, Crystal Springs; and Newlife Quartet.

"God promised revival. God promised healing. God promised answered prayers. God promised a number of things.

However, we are not claiming those holy promises.

"Seemingly, we are standing on quicksand. My prayer is that we as pastors would come together on October 29 to be renewed, refreshed, revived, and regenerated.

"Please encourage your (church) staff to be present. Encourage your people to be present, especially during the evening session. You don't want to miss this conference," Oster said.

Due to ongoing major construction in the parking lots surrounding First Church, Jackson, conference-goers are strongly encouraged to park in the secured area at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds just off Jefferson Street (take Pearl Street exit off I-55), and then take the free shuttle to and from the conference.

For more information on the conference, contact Oster at (601) 919-0280.



Wolfe



Griffin



Daryl Oster  
Newlife Quartet  
Scott Griffin  
Steve Walker  
Chuck Herring  
Bob Pittman  
Fred Wolfe  
Joseph Oster  
Richard Land  
Lowell Ingram

## 2001 Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference

FIREARM OWNERS

1:30 p.m.	Worship
1:35 p.m.	Worship
1:40 p.m.	Worship
1:50 p.m.	Worship
2:30 p.m.	Worship
2:35 p.m.	Worship
2:45 p.m.	Worship
3:00 p.m.	Worship
3:15 p.m.	Worship
3:30 p.m.	Worship
3:45 p.m.	Worship
3:50 p.m.	Worship
4:30 p.m.	Worship
7:00 p.m.	Worship
7:05 p.m.	Music
7:25 p.m.	Celebration in Song
7:30 p.m.	Special Message
7:35 p.m.	Message
8:15 p.m.	Congregation Offering
8:25 p.m.	Special Music
8:30 p.m.	Message
9:15 p.m.	Benediction

## WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

MBC meetings listed

4

NOBTS to offer course

5

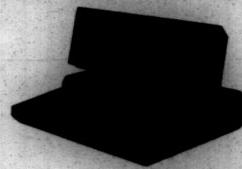
Letters to the editor

9

Sunday School lessons

10

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.  
Perkins Jr.**  
Editor

EDITOR  
William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Tony Martin

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE  
Florence Larrimore

LAYOUT/DESIGN  
Joylin Davis

ADVERTISING/PROOFREADER  
Heather Cumberland

CIRCULATION MANAGER  
Brenda Quattlebaum

BOOKKEEPER  
Betty Anne Bailey

EDITORS EMERITI  
Don McGregor  
Guy Henderson

**Baptist Record** Advisory Committee:  
Grant Arinder, Ridgeland  
Charles Dunagin, McComb  
Ken Hester, Pontotoc  
Allan Nix, Laurel  
David Petty, Hattiesburg  
Michael Weeks, Olive Branch  
Heather Cumberland, secretary

**Postmaster:** Send changes of address to **THE BAPTIST RECORD**, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send news, communication, and address changes to **The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD**, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 (601) 968-3800 Fax: (601) 292-3330 E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 125 NUMBER 36  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date.

**A**mong the many outcomes of the horrific atrocities that befell the United States on September 11, we have learned a great deal about ourselves. There are certainly less tragic ways to learn those lessons, but the sheer scope of those war crimes and events thereafter have brought into white-hot focus just who and what we are as Americans and as humans.

The financial toll has yet to be tallied, but surely the overall figure will range into the hundreds of billions of dollars. Yet, no one really seems to be concentrating on that fact. Instead, virtually everyone is raising money for the families of firefighters, police officers, and other people who died September 11.

That huge pile of debris, uselessly occupying a significant portion of some of the most expensive real estate on earth, means infinitely more to us as the tomb of thousands of innocents than as a history-making monetary loss.

That's why people from all over the country arrive in New York City any way they can get there, and then line up day after day to spend their waking hours passing buckets of debris out of Ground Zero — they want those victims found at all costs, for the loved ones left behind but also for their own peace of mind.

We saw the choking dust storm that blanketed people from head to toe, and we discovered in their blood-caked faces that all identifiable traces of race, creed, nationality, and ethnicity had been wiped out.

For once in the history of America, none of those issues really mattered to a single one of us. We just wanted to help them any way we could.

Most of us cannot remember a time when more American flags were on display. Homes and businesses have unfurled the Stars and Stripes in numbers unseen since World War II. Cars have flags plastered from hood to trunk. Ball players have flags on their helmets and jerseys.

Churches are packed every Sunday.

People wait four hours to donate a pint of blood for the victims. Americans continue to help out any way they can, for as long as it takes.

That's the American spirit the terrorists thought they crushed along with the towers. As they are presently finding out to their sorrow, they were wrong. Really wrong.

One of the most profound lessons we learned isn't really a lesson, however. It's more like the rediscovery of what is truly important in life.

From the doomed airliners, dozens of telephone calls were made by passengers who were apparently allowed to do so by the hijackers.

Those calls weren't made to the office or stockbrokers or bookies or golfing buddies. Those calls weren't made to health clubs or car dealers or the reservations desks at fancy restaurants.

Those calls were made to loved ones, and there was only one message: "I love you." As the end drew near, all that mattered to the victims who were able to get their calls through was love.

Jeremy Glick called his wife and infant daughter to tell them he loved them. Todd Beamer called a telephone company operator and asked her to let his wife and family know how much he loved them. Another passenger called his mother.

From the towering infernos came scores of calls with the same message. One man, trapped several floors above the flames, faced death by calling his wife to tell her he loved her. Then he called his best friend and, in his final seconds of life, pleaded with his friend to take care of his children.

A mother certain of her fate finally got a call through to her mother. She asked her

"**MY SOUL NEEDS MORE THAN CHICKEN SOUP.**"



mother to raise her seven-year-old daughter and to never stop telling the child how much she loved her.

The situations were different, but the message was the same. What really mattered in the end was love.

Jesus understood that when he pronounced The Greatest Commandment in Matt. 22:34-40 (NIV) — *Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.*

May it not take such tragedy in our own lives to make us realize the weight of the Savior's words.

## GUEST OPINION:



### To go or not to go

By Rob Sugg  
Missionary in residence  
First Church, Jackson

the church comes into being.

In Acts 4, Peter and John are brought before the Jewish rulers because they had healed a lame man. After questioning them, the rulers command them not to speak or teach in Jesus' name, but Peter and John answer, "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:18-20).

In Acts 5, Peter and John are arrested and jailed but during the night, God's angel opens the prison doors and releases them. He sets them free with this message: "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life" (Acts 5:20).

When they obeyed, they were arrested again. The rulers remind them they had strictly

told them not to preach in Jesus' name, but Peter responds, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

After Paul completed his three missionary journeys, he was led by God's spirit to go to Jerusalem. He knew "chains and tribulations" waited for him there, yet he went and was arrested and imprisoned (Acts 19:20).

Through this experience, God made it possible for Paul to go to Rome and testify before Caesar. He also gave Paul an opportunity to write several letters to churches that became part of our New Testament.

There are many rational, sound reasons why people should not travel at this particular time, but Jesus' command

to carry the light into the dark places of the world has not been canceled.

Today God is moving in mighty power all over the world. There are unprecedented numbers of people coming to faith in Christ. Hundreds of new churches are springing up around the world.

What about your mission trip next month? Many will say, "Don't go. Wait a while and see what happens," but God says, "Go."

Missionaries around the world testify that the instability and uncertainty that accompany an events like those of September 11 open doors for a witness to God's love.

This could well be the very time God has set for a harvest of souls like we have never seen before.

If this is a harvest time, will the church sit and wait to see what will happen, or will the church go where God is working in mighty power?

Sugg and his wife Nan served as International Mission Board missionaries in Taiwan for a total of 22 years.

# Missionaries seek prayers for task ahead

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — In the aftermath of Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States and the U.S. military strikes that began Oct. 7, missionaries are calling Southern Baptists to pray with renewed urgency. Among them:

• A Baptist representative teaching English to children of Arab families asks for prayer that she will have opportunities to share the gospel. After the Sept. 11 attacks, she found members of one family crying.

One of the children asked, "If there's a war, will you still be our friends?" The worker reassured them of her friendship. She now has permission to bring a Bible with her to class and show them some of God's Word.

She asks Christians to pray that out of this tragedy, God will bring many more such opportunities for sharing his love.

• A worker in a Last Frontier nation writes: "In light of the current events in the United States, some of our prayer partners may be concerned for our safety living among a people group that is more than 50% Muslim.

"We want to stress that we sense no danger. Many of our Muslim friends are saddened by what was committed by the terrorists and have expressed their sincere condolences.

"One friend even broke down in tears when he inquired if anyone we know was harmed or killed. Rather than causing a rift between us, this incident has brought us closer together.

"Please pray that God would glorify himself as he strengthens our friendships with those that need to place their faith in the Prince of Peace."

• From southern Asia, a worker writes: "In light of the recent attack on America, pray that [people considering missionary service] will still be able to respond to God and the call he has for them with a 'yes,' whatever that call may be.

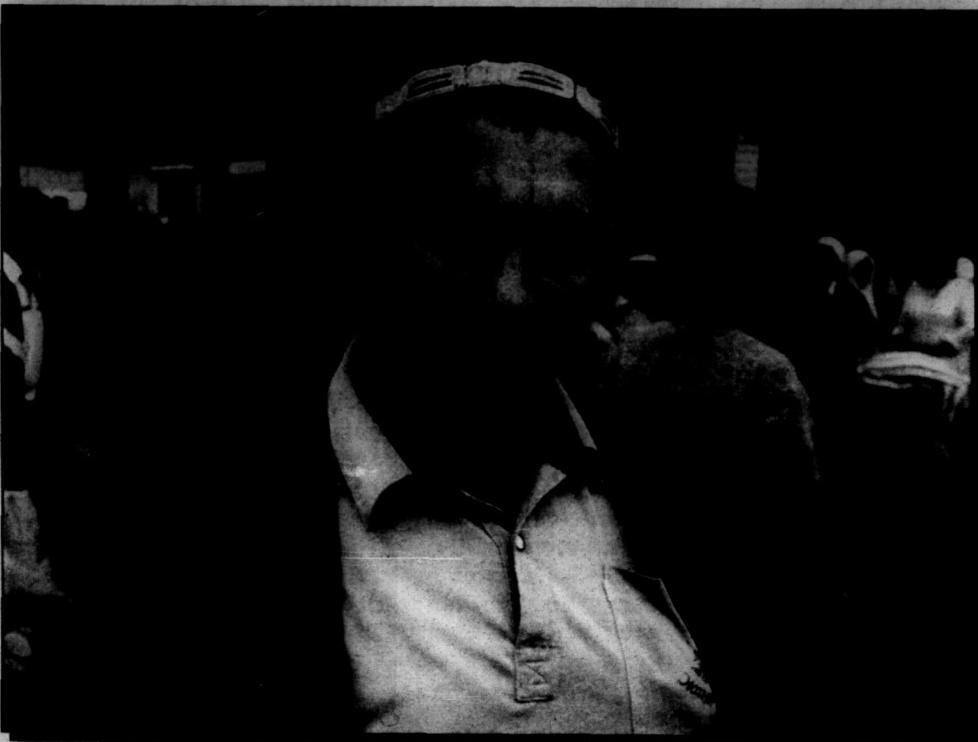
"Also ask that even more people would see the desperate need of laborers to go forth and share the hope of Christ... going where he sends them."

Another missionary writes: "With the recent tragic events that have devastated the United States, remember that what man intends for evil, God intends for good. All citizens are deeply hurt by such loss, but let us also remember that as Christians, we are more importantly kingdom citizens.

"Our focus, our hope, and our strength need to be correctly placed on and in the One who sustains us and who works in ways that we can't understand this side of heaven.

"At such a time as this, how much more do we need to intercede on behalf of those... who are Muslim, in asking that they may come into a relationship with our King."

As Southern Baptist missionary Charles Beaty entered the last days of his life, he witnessed a world seemingly going mad. He responded with love and prayer.



WILL HE HEAR? — Since September 11, Southern Baptist missionaries like the late Charles Beaty have been issuing pleas for their Christian brothers and sisters to pray for their work as they attempt to reach Muslims like this unidentified man who works in the marketplace of a city in a predominantly Muslim country. (BP photo)

Beaty, 34, died of lung cancer Oct. 2. Before his death, he mobilized thousands of Christians for missions by using every day to share his passion for reaching the world with God's love.

In the last week of the daily devotions he offered to visitors to his website ([www.ObeyTheRightThirst.org](http://www.ObeyTheRightThirst.org)), Beaty reflected on how to respond to the horrors of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington:

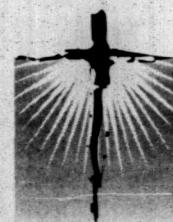
"The events of the past few weeks have us all thinking, 'What is happening? How will this change our world?' he wrote. "When faced with violence, it is very human to react out of fear, particularly with acts that have no 'face.'

"[But] let's look to God in our fears. He will come through! Find peace and comfort in God. Live in peace, as you should, with him at your side."

Hundreds gathered Oct. 6 at First Church, Kearney, Mo., to celebrate the life of Charles Stewart Beaty.

Three pastors and several International Mission Board (IMB) representatives conducted the funeral service.

Avery Willis, senior vice president of overseas operations for the IMB, officiated at the service.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST  
*Record*

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

OCTOBER 18, 2001  
VOL. 125  
NO. 36

## Looking back

10 years ago

The opening session of the Russian parliament finds itself competing with a rush of deputies and staff trying to get hold of their own copies of the Bible being distributed free, reports Maurice Harvey, photojournalist for the United Bible Societies.

20 years ago

Atheist Madeline Murray O'Hair sustains two separate losses as the U.S. Supreme Court refuses to disturb lower court rulings upholding the legality of invocations at city council meetings and of Jewish and Christian holiday displays in the rotunda of the Texas state capitol.

50 years ago

Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi add more than 10,000 members during 1950, bringing the latest membership figures to 388,426, according to the Department of Survey, Statistics, and Information of the Sunday School Board in Nashville.

## Terrorist linked to persecution

COSTA MESA, Calif. (BP) — A leading authority on religious persecution sees a connection between the Osama bin Laden terror network and persecution directed against Christians in a host of countries. "He's tied in with a lot of persecution," Paul Marshall, British-born author of "Their Blood Cries Out" and a senior fellow at the Center for Religious Freedom in Washington, D.C., told ASSIST News Service. "In many settings it's radicals within his network who are carrying out persecution," Marshall said. "This is going on in the Philippines, Indonesia, and to some extent Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and, of course, Afghanistan." Meanwhile, bin Laden is allied with other terrorist groups in Algeria and Nigeria that have been killing Christians, Marshall said. "Bin Laden's had a lot of cooperation with Sudan, a major country in the world killing Christians," Marshall said. "The death toll in Sudan since 1998 is two million; that is more than every war in the Middle East in this past century. Most of these victims are Christians." Persecution also continues in Muslim countries without ties to bin Laden, Marshall said, noting, "You get persecution in the Islamic world apart from bin Laden. Most notably are the Saudis, who are [bin Laden's] enemy number one. They have arrested 15 Christians in the last two months. In the [first week of October], they have tortured at least three of them. America is not on the first list of things [bin Laden] hates," Marshall said. The Bush administration has not been aggressive in its approach to Christian persecution issues with offending regimes, Marshall stated. "The U.S. government is still very reluctant to raise this as a human rights issue, even with the new administration," he said. "The State Department doesn't push it, and a lot of foreign policy resists it; it makes their lives tougher. No congregation in America should meet without praying for the persecuted church."

# Lay Missions, Ministers' Wives set meets

## Merritt seeks nominations for SBC posts

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Nominations for several key committees of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) are being received through Nov. 1 by SBC President James Merritt. The committees are the Committee on Committees, which selects members of the Committee on Nominations who, in turn, recommend trustees for SBC entities to the SBC annual meeting, along with the Resolutions Committee, Credentials Committee and the Tellers Committee.

Nomination forms are available from the Atlanta-area church where Merritt is pastor: First Baptist Church Snellville, P.O. Box 647, Snellville, GA 30078. Telephone: (770) 978-5736. E-mail: [sbcfbc@bellsouth.net](mailto:sbcfbc@bellsouth.net). Fax: (770) 982-0906.

Completed forms will be received by his office through Nov. 1. Nominees should have "a very high level of spiritual commitment first of all to our wonderful Lord and secondly to our convention," Merritt said.

Additionally, he said nominees should:

- have "a burning passion for reaching people for Christ by carrying out the mandate of the Great Commission."

- be "fully supportive of our 2000 edition of The Baptist Faith and Message."

- be "a faithful contributor to our Cooperative Program," the channel by which Southern Baptist churches support the convention's international and national missions and ministries.

Nominees also should be able to attend this year's SBC annual meeting, June 11-12 in St. Louis, and cover their own expenses, Merritt said.

JACKSON, Miss. (Special) — The 2001 Mississippi Baptist Lay Missions Conference will convene on October 29 at 3 p.m. at First Church, Jackson, with Interest Conferences that will cover missions involvement in the areas of agriculture, education, construction, and the groups Volunteers in Missions and Campers on Mission.

The annual Lay Missions Conference, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) missions strategy team, is traditionally held on the Monday preceding the start of the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The convention's 2001 annual meeting will kick off at 8:25 a.m. on October 30 in the sanctuary of First Church, Jackson.

The theme for this year's conference is God is Moving Through Volunteers.

Following the Interest Conferences, the annual missions banquet will be held at 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall West at First Church, Jackson. Keynote speakers will be Don Dent, regional leader for Southeast Asia and Oceania for the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Michael and Valerie Coles of Baltimore, Md.

Michael Coles is pastor of Seventh Church in Baltimore, the home church of Annie Armstrong for whom the Southern Baptist annual Easter Offering for North American Missions is named.

Mississippi Baptists also have an ongoing partnership missions relationship with Maryland Baptists.

Special Music will be provided by Luz Del

Mundo (Light of the World).

Reservations for the missions banquet are required by the deadline of October 24. Cost is \$8.50 per person. Make checks payable to MBCB and add the notation "Lay Missions Banquet." Mail to MBCB Men's Ministry Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

For more information, contact Carol Wright at (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: [cwright@mbcb.org](mailto:cwright@mbcb.org).

Due to ongoing major construction in the parking lots surrounding First Church, Jackson, Lay Missions Conference attendees are strongly encouraged to park in the secured area at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds just off Jefferson Street, and then take the free shuttle to and from the conference.

The 2001 edition of the Annual Conference of Mississippi Baptist Ministers' Wives will be held October 29 on the fifth floor of First Church, Jackson, beginning at 1 p.m. and adjourning at 4:30 p.m. The theme is Growing as a Godly Christian Lady and Minister's Wife.

Scheduled to speak are



Futral



Porter

Shirley Futral, teacher and wife of MBCB executive director-treasurer Jim Futral; and Tommey Lynn Porter, homemaker and wife of Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission Executive Director Jimmy Porter.

The conference is designed as a time of inspiration, fellowship, personal growth, information, and support for the minister's wife, according to Matt Buckles, director of the sponsoring MBCB Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department.

The Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union will provide a special break time in-between the two conference sessions.

Child care will be provided by First Church, Jackson. Reservations for child care are required, and the deadline to register is October 22.

There is no cost for the conference, but preregistration is strongly recommended even if child care is not needed.

For a registration form or for more information, contact Kay McDonnell in the MBCB Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department at (601) 292-3305 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 305. E-mail: [kmcdonnell@mbcb.org](mailto:kmcdonnell@mbcb.org).

Due to ongoing major construction in the parking lots surrounding First Church, Jackson, Ministers' Wives Conference-goers are strongly encouraged to park in the secured area at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds just off Jefferson Street, and then take the free shuttle to and from the conference.

## Gatherings to take place during MBC meeting

A number of groups have scheduled meetings to coincide with the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC). Among those groups are:

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 29

- Associational missions directors conference, 10:30 a.m., Baptist Children's Village, Jackson. For details, contact John Henry, (601) 947-4981 or E-mail: [ggbapt@datasync.com](mailto:ggbapt@datasync.com).

- Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association, luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Ridgecrest Church, Madison; \$12 per person. Former Miss Mississippi Becky Pruitt will be guest. Call the church at (601) 843-1090 for reservations.

- Ministers' Wives Conference, 1 p.m., fifth floor, First Church, Jackson. Contact Kay McDonnell, (601) 292-3305 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 305, E-mail: [kmcdonnell@mbcb.org](mailto:kmcdonnell@mbcb.org).

- Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference, 1:30 and 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson.

- Lay Missions Conference, 3 p.m., First Church, Jackson. Contact Carol Wright, (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334, E-mail: [cwright@mbcb.org](mailto:cwright@mbcb.org).

- Lay Missions banquet, 5

p.m., First Church, Jackson, \$8.50 per person (reservations required). Contact Carol Wright, (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334, E-mail: [cwright@mbcb.org](mailto:cwright@mbcb.org).

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30

- Seminary Extension breakfast, 7 a.m., Baptist Building chapel. Speaker is Bill Vinson, president of Seminary Extension. Contact Keith Gordon, (601) 292-3307 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 307. E-mail: [kgordon@mbcb.org](mailto:kgordon@mbcb.org).

- Annuitants' breakfast, 7:30 a.m., First Church, Jackson. Chris Elkins, Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board, speaker, complimentary. Contact Robin Nichols, (601) 292-3226 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 226, E-mail: [rnicols@mbcb.org](mailto:rnicols@mbcb.org).

- Mississippi College Christian Service alumni continental breakfast, Fellowship Hall West, First Church, Jackson. No reservations required, complimentary.

- Mississippi Baptist Convention, first session: 8:25 a.m., second session: 1:30 p.m., third session: 6:30 p.m., sanctuary of First Church, Jackson.

- Mississippi College School of Nursing, in conjunction with

Baptist Healthcare Systems, Inc., will hold a health fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the fourth floor of First Church, Jackson.

Free testing includes cholesterol, glucose, glaucoma, blood pressure, hearing, and stress screening. Flu vaccinations will be available for \$15. For details, contact Deborah Bolian at Mississippi College at (601) 925-3000.

- Southwestern Seminary, noon luncheon, Calvary Church, Jackson. Order tickets from Dennis Salley, P.O. Box 153, Valley Park, MS 39177. \$8.50 per person.

- Southern Seminary alumni luncheon, noon, Baptist Building Skyroom. Tickets are \$10 per person. Contact Carl White at (601) 482-0191 or E-mail: [cwhite@highlandbaptist.net](mailto:cwhite@highlandbaptist.net).

- Mid-America Seminary alumni luncheon, noon, Dennery's Restaurant, Jackson. Tickets are \$15 per person. Speaker is Gray Allison, president emeritus of the seminary. For details, contact David Sapp at (662) 473-4447 or E-mail: [dwsapp@watervalley.net](mailto:dwsapp@watervalley.net).

- New Orleans Seminary alumni luncheon, noon, First Church, Jackson, \$10 per person. Speaker is Jerry Pounds, vice-president for development. For details, contact

Michael Glenn at (601) 876-3436, or visit the seminary booth during the convention.

- Chaplains' banquet, 4:45 p.m., Baptist Building Skyroom. Tickets to nonmembers are \$8.50 per person. Contact Elaine Smith (601) 292-3361 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 361. E-mail: [esmith@mbcb.org](mailto:esmith@mbcb.org).

- Blue Mountain College alumni dinner, 5:30 p.m., Galloway United Methodist Church, Jackson. Speaker is Eddie Meeks, Bible professor. \$10, no reservations required. Tickets at door or booth.

- William Carey College alumni fellowship, immediately following close of evening MBC session, Baptist Building chapel. Speaker is Larry Kennedy, president. No reservations are necessary.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

- Bivocational ministers fellowship breakfast, 7 a.m., Baptist Building chapel, complimentary. No reservations are required.

- Mississippi Baptist Convention, fourth session, 8:25 a.m., sanctuary of First Church, Jackson.

- Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Baptist Building, immediately following close of fourth convention session.

# NOBTS offering second course in series

October 22 begins the second of eight courses at nine locations in Mississippi sponsored by New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS). The eight courses are:

- Song leading.
- Worship Planning.
- Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch.
- Reading Music: Harmony/Melody.
- Hymnology.
- Music Administration/Staff Relations.
- Survey of Music Resources.
- Class Voice.

The courses are designed to provide basic training for bivocational ministers and other music leaders in churches. The eight courses meet two hours per week, and each course is eight weeks in length.

The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two-year period. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite. Each student who completes the eight courses earns a

Church Music Certificate from New Orleans Seminary plus a credit of eight hours toward a campus degree program.

There is a one-time registration fee of \$25. The cost of each course is \$85.

The second course, Worship Planning, will meet once each week for two hours per meeting for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations:

- Emmanuel Church, Greenville, beginning October 22 (7-9 p.m.). Bobby Whittington, teacher.

- Broadmoor Church, Madison, beginning October 22 (7-9 p.m.). Jimmy McCaleb, teacher.

- First Church, Columbus, beginning October 22 (7-9 p.m.). Bobby Sanderson, teacher.

- First Church, Purvis, beginning October 22 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). James Hayes, teacher.

- First Church, Booneville, beginning October 22 (7-9 p.m.). LuAnne Ford, teacher.

- Northcrest Church, Meridian, beginning October 22 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Buddy McElroy, teacher.

- Hernando Church, Hernando, beginning October 22 (7-9 p.m.). Barry Tweedy, teacher.

- Tri-County Association, Columbia, beginning October 23 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Kenny Adams, teacher.

- Meadville Church, Meadville, beginning October 23 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Chuck McMinn, teacher.

These classes could be offered at other locations in the state, where 8-10 students are interested in enrolling. For more information, contact Jimmy McCaleb at (601) 292-3273 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 273.

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RIVERS

Rivers have a significant place in all of our lives. If you were to study the Bible very much you would run across several important rivers — the Tigris, Euphrates, Nile, and of course, the Jordan in which our Lord was baptized.

Growing up in Mississippi, you soon realize that rivers have a very significant place. Cutting across the landscape are important rivers like the Pearl, Big Black, Tallahatchie, Yazoo, Yockanookany, Tombigbee, and the Biloxi, but all of them combined cannot match the mighty Mississippi, which the native Americans knew as the Father of Waters.

Rivers provide nourishing water to the land, an environment for a crop of fish, and relatively inexpensive transportation

## Directions

**Jim Futral**, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

for both goods and people. Rivers are significant, beautiful, and life sustaining. In time, we who know the Lord will have the privilege of seeing the very throne of God out of which flows a river. Read about it in Rev. 22.

Although I have been on and around rivers all of my life, on October 9, a new "River" was born. One that will bless and nourish my heart and be a delight to many people. The river of which I speak weighed 6 lbs. and 9 ozs., and is the

newest child of Rob and Kimandria Futral. Actually, her complete name is Ashlynn Rivers Futral. She is a doll!

As you know, rivers often need care, management, and sometimes control. In this case, "Rivers" will have everything she needs supplied by her mom and dad, and helped by her two big brothers, Tre and Ridge. If by chance they do not provide for her adequately, she will have a capable older cousin, Madi, to see that things are taken care of.

What kind of world has this "river" flowed into? The headlines of the paper declared that the U.S. forces continue to bomb Afghanistan. The sports section announced that the major league playoffs will begin that day. There was a full page of obituaries from the Jackson area. The weather was clear and mild. But, in God's marvelous plan and provision:

- "Rivers" came into a family. A birth is miraculous, but so is God's structured unit called "family." A mom and a dad who care.

Brothers who became a part of the excitement and welcome of a little sister. Grandparents, aunts, and uncles, all became a part of the joy of welcoming, holding, and loving someone they had never seen. Family is remarkable, and family makes a difference!

- "Rivers" came into faith. I am fully aware that faith is non-transferable from one person to another, or one generation to another. Yet, I also know the significance of a child living in a home where there is a faith environment. When the writer of Proverbs instructs us to, "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it," he was not just saying, "take the children to church," as important as that may be. He was indicating that we are to point the children in the right direction, guide them in the right way, and show them what a life in the Lord is like. What a blessing it is to know that both with family and the environment of a fellowship of faith, "Rivers" will grow up learning about Jesus. It is more than an old-fashioned idea — it is a life-changing truth from God.

- "Rivers" came into a future. Miss Rivers was born on Tuesday, four weeks (a month) after the bombing of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. As she grows up, everything that she will know about that horrible day in our history will come from a historical footnote. The aftermath of that day may be a part of her life, but the event is not. Isn't it incredible how God starts new things after great tragedies? After the fall in the garden, God pointed to the seed of the woman as the hope of the future. After centuries of silence from the prophets, and when the world seemed to be so spiritually dark, God pointed to a manger for the hope of all humanity.

- "Rivers" came right into the landscape of our world and brightened everything and reminded us again that our great God can start something new. "Rivers" of blessings, and joys, and possibilities continue to flow. It is the good way of our great God!

## Missionaries dead, New Tribes says

AUSTIN, Texas (BP) — New Tribes Mission (NTM) has concluded, based on multiple guerrilla testimonies, that three American missionaries kidnapped eight years ago in Panama were shot by their captors three years later as the guerrillas were facing pressure from Colombian troops.

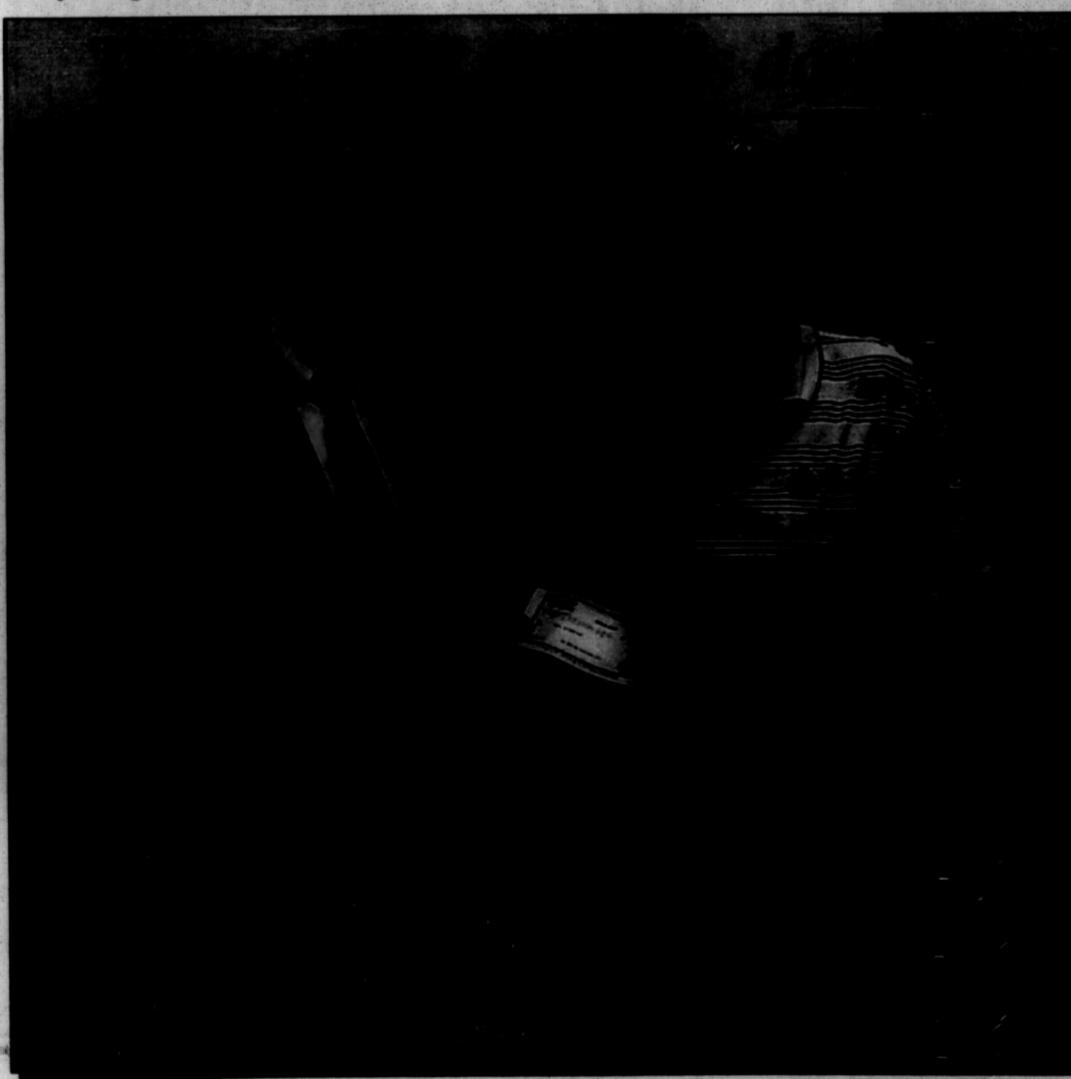
While the remains of NTM missionaries Dave Mankins, Rick Tenenoff, and Mark Rich may never be found, NTM has exhausted all leads in the case, Compass Direct news service reported Sept. 21.

Both the mission and the hostages' families are satisfied that the men are dead, NTM spokesman Scott Ross said.

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, guerrillas snatched the missionaries on Jan. 31, 1993, in the eastern Panama village of Pucuro, near that country's border with Colombia.

The three were planting a church among the Kuna Indians. Mankins, then 43, Tenenoff, then 36, and Rich, then 23, and their families were in Pucuro when armed guerrillas burst into their homes.

The rebels held the men at gunpoint while the wives packed a few belongings, including their Bibles. The missionaries' wives last saw their husbands, hands bound behind their backs, marching into the Panamanian jungle.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**Children's choir of Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg,** recently attended the music camp at Gulfshore Assembly. Pictured (from left, front row) are Tasha Thames, choir director; Taylor Murphy; Brennan Dear; Erin Ellzey; Jacob Ellzey; and Lauren Carley; (second row) Chet Dear, minister of students; Debbie Dear; Andee Schwingle; Lauren Alvarado; Michael Austin; Samantha Germany; Chris Ellzey; and Gina Ellzey.

**The House of Destiny** will be presented at First Church, Florence, Oct. 25-27, 30-31, at 6:30 p.m. For additional information, contact Scott Herrin, youth minister, at (601) 845-7578.

**Discipleship Training high attendance night** at Harmony Church, Winston County, will be Oct. 28 at 5:30 p.m. The goal is 125.

**First Church, Gulfport**, took a mission trip to Braila Romania in July. They worked with the children in the area and youth at the local Baptist church plus visited several villages in the area. Pictured (from left, back row) are Regina Lightsey, Israel Cox, Lydia Nix, Billy Hughes, Jim Karr, Sheri Brimm, Marie Eck, and Jamie Bates; (front row) Ginny Douglas, Deana Cox, Debbie Thompson, Jerry Bazor, and Charlotte Lamey.

**The Mississippi Task Force on Reducing Out of Wedlock Pregnancies** is sponsoring the ChangeMakers Abstinence Seminar to be held on Oct. 18 and 19 at the Clarion Hotel in Jackson. The two-day seminar will offer an insightful explanation of important issues related to teen sexuality, and will help participants develop a practical plan of action for their own communities that encourages teens to abstain from sexual activity and other risky behaviors. The registration fee is \$75 per attendee, which includes materials, breakfast, and lunch for both days. A limited number of scholarships are available. Contact Jenelia Bracey at (888) 673-2645 for more information.

### Women's conf. slated for October 20

Enon Church, Stringer (Jasper Association), will host a Women Ministering to Women Conference on October 20, beginning at 11 a.m. Guest speaker will be Patsy Bozeman, ministry assistant in the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Guest musicians include Missy McCraw, Sarah Odom, Kath McCraw, Rachel Odom, and Anjie Price.

All women are invited, and are encouraged to bring a friend. Lunch will be served. There is no fee for the conference.

For more information, contact April King at (601) 426-3626.

Mission team from First Church, Gulfport



**GREAT NATION  
INVESTMENT CORP.**  
invites your indication of interest to:  
**FIRST MORTGAGE CHURCH BONDS**

**EARN UP TO: 8.5%**

These bonds may be placed in a self-directed IRA. Transfers and rollovers accepted, in most cases.

**Interest Payable Quarterly**  
This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. All offers are made by prospectus only.

**GREAT NATION INVESTMENT CORP.**

5408-A Bell • Amarillo TX 79109  
Member NASD, SIPC

For more complete information about bond issues, obtain a prospectus which describes all of the particulars of the undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest or send money.

All bonds are offered at face value, subject to availability.

**CALL OR WRITE TO:**

Christy Overby 1-800-288-4183  
341 Dover Lane Local:  
Madison, MS (601) 856-9158  
39110

**LITTLE GIANT MFG. CO.**  
BAPTISTRIES  
WATER HEATERS  
STEPPLES  
IRONING  
TOLL FREE 1-800-231-6035

**Black Jack Church, Yazoo County**, will celebrate the recent renovation of its sanctuary. The service will be held Sunday, Oct. 21, at 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the service. The church was established in 1843. Louis Smith is pastor.

**Acteens of Mantee Church, Mantee**, presented the Margaret

Lackey State Missions Program during the Wed. night service on Sept. 12. Participants include: Anna Johnson, Kayla Davis, Renee Smith, Kristy Jones, Marla Stone, Christal Davis, Renee Hastings, Lindsey Kilpatrick, Anna Hinkey, Katy Kilpatrick, Courtney Jackson, Amanda Hinkey, Lacy Jones, and Kari Lawrence.



Acteens of Mantee Church, Mantee

## Evangelism Bible Conference 2001

November 7-9 • 6 p.m.

First Baptist Church • Ripley, Miss.

### EVANGELISTS INCLUDE:

**James E. Messer, Sr., Theodore, Ala.**

**Roy Fish, Fort Worth, Tex.**

**Jim McNeil, St. Louis, Mo.**

**Jimmy Jackson, Huntsville, Ala.**

**Ted Traylor, Pensacola, Fla.**

**Junior Hill, Hartselle, Ala.**

**Harold Hunter, Jacksonville, Fla.**

**John Sullivan, Jacksonville, Fla.**

**Bob Pitman, Memphis, Tenn.**

### MUSIC EVANGELISTS

**Phil Willis, Baton Rouge, La.**

**Gary Miller, Jacksonville, Fla., and others**

### **Ladies' Luncheon Meeting**

**Thursday at Noon featuring**

**Joani Tabor, Christian singer and speaker**

### **Mens' Luncheon Meeting**

**Friday at Noon featuring**

**Albert Wilkerson, pastor, FBC Ripley, Miss.**

**For more information call  
(662) 837-8126 or (662) 837-8127.**

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NIV

October 18, 2001

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## Young Musicians' Festival

April 6, 2002

Mississippi College Coliseum, Clinton  
Guest Clinician, Susan Messer

**Music:** Order the winter *Young Musician's Magazine* from the dated literature order form.

**Memorize:** "God So Loved the World"  
"Sing to the Lord"  
"The Good Shepherd"

**Two additional anthems** will be available from the Church Music Dept. Watch for this information in the Young Musician's brochure to be mailed in November 2001.

Contact the Church Music Department, 1-800-748-1651, x 271, or in Jackson, 601-292-3271, or Sarah Talley for other information.



Susan Messer  
Atlanta, Ga.

## 2002 Baptist Dogma Study Preview -

- Main Street Baptist Church  
Hattiesburg  
January 28, 2002
- McLaurin Heights Baptist Church  
Pearl  
January 29, 2002
- First Baptist Church  
Grenada  
January 31, 2002



All  
previews  
are from  
9 a.m.-noon

Preregistration  
is requested.  
The cost is \$10,  
which includes  
brunch and a  
copy of this  
year's doctrinal  
study book,  
*Called to be  
Holy*, by Rick  
Melick.

For more information  
call 1-800-748-1651 or  
601-292-3271

## SENIORS

**State Senior Adult Leadership Lab**  
(open to ministers, officers, Sunday School teachers)

**November 1-2, 2001**

(registration 1:30 p.m., 11/1, adjourn 1:00 p.m., 11/2)

**Camp Garaywa, Clinton (601-924-5062)**

Cost: \$65 (meals and lodging) OR \$10 for Friday events with lunch only OR \$5 for workshops only (no meals or lodging)

**Registration Deadline: October 29, 2001**

**Speakers:** Bobby Shows, Dennis Daniels,  
Janie Walters and Horace Kerr. Music by R.L. and Beth Sigrest

Bobby Shows

Sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department. For more info,  
contact Glenn Shows at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800.

## BAPTIST HYMNALS NEEDED FOR AFRICAN SEMINARY

The only seminary in Africa offering a graduate degree in church music is in Ogbomosho, Nigeria. Currently, most African church choirs sing only the melody of hymns from memory, for they have only the words without music.

Jimmy McCaleb, Church Music Department consultant, after teaching a course at this seminary, has a burden to provide our fellow Baptist musicians in Africa with 5,000 copies of the 1991 Baptist Hymnal. Their choirs could then proclaim the theology of our Baptist faith in beautiful four-part harmony! As of August, 3,000 hymnals have been given and sent.

You can help with a financial gift. One hymnal is \$5. A box of 20 is \$100. If you or your church group would like to participate in this ministry, please call Jimmy McCaleb at 601-292-3273, 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail him at [jmccaleb@mbcb.org](mailto:jmccaleb@mbcb.org).

Checks may be made out to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mailed to:

Jimmy McCaleb  
MBCB  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205

# A VITAL CONFERENCE OF MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MINISTERS' WIVES

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2001  
1:00-4:30 P.M.

## Program Personnel

**Shirley Futral,**  
Ridgeland; wife of Jim  
Futral, executive direc-  
tor-treasurer, Miss.  
Baptist Convention  
Board; mother, grand-  
mother and pastor's  
wife for over 35 years.

**Tommie Lynn Porter,**  
Ridgeland; wife of Jimmy  
Porter, executive director,  
Christian Action  
Commission, Miss.  
Baptist Convention;  
mother, grandmother and  
pastor's wife for over  
30 years.

- Inspiration, Fellowship, Personal Growth, Information, and Support for the Minister's Wife!
- There is no cost for this conference. In order for us to better prepare, please preregister, even if you will not need child care.
- Child care will be provided by First Baptist Church, Jackson. Please indicate on the registration form the number and age of children. The deadline for child care reservations is October 22. If needed, the phone number for FBC, Jackson, is 601-949-1900.

### \*\*\*\*\* • Registration Form • \*\*\*\*\*

Complete the registration form and return to Matt Buckles, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 or fax to 601-714-7426 or E-mail this information to mbuckles@mmbcb.org. For more information, call 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3600, ext. 305 in Jackson.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
(If needed) Names and birth dates of preschool children needing child care \_\_\_\_\_

## North American Mission Board Mission Service Corps Training

Central Hills Baptist Retreat  
Kosciusko (Fri.-Sun.) Nov. 2-4



*Volunteer mission  
opportunities to serve  
at home or locations  
throughout the United  
States  
or Canada.*

For more information contact:

Sidney or Margaret Pitts, MSC, State Coordinators 601-878-6607  
Larry or Linda Tate, Assoc. MSC, Coordinators 601-854-7797

*Sponsored by MBCB Men's Ministry*

Thursday, November 8  
Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison  
7-9 p.m.

### Topics

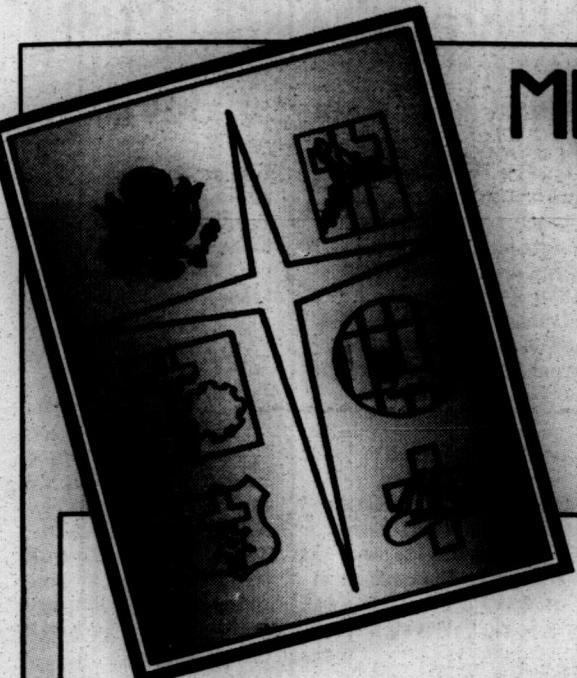
- Blended Family Marriages - Perry Sanderford, Brandon
- Parenting/Discipline - Dot Day, Hazlehurst
- Singles: Making it on One Income/Mission Endeavor - Steve Bublitz, Hattiesburg
- Senior Adults Ministry - Horace Kerr, Brandon

Call 601-853-1090  
for more information.

*Sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board*

# MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHAPLAIN'S ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FALL BANQUET

October 30, 2001      4:45 p.m.  
Baptist Building, Skyroom  
515 Mississippi Street, Jackson



All chaplains,  
volunteers and  
career, are invited to  
join us for a good  
Bar-B-Que dinner and  
fellowship.

The banquet is no cost to  
chaplains who have paid  
their dues to the Chaplain's  
Association for 2001/2002.

For more information, call Elaine Smith  
at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3361 or  
Linda McComb at 601-984-2121.

SPEAKER  
**William L. (Bill) House, III**

National Missionary for the Ministry Evangelism Team  
of the North American Mission Board

Bill will bring an update on Chaplaincy on the national level  
and plans for the coming year.

## REGISTRATION FORM: Chaplains' Association Annual Fall Banquet

Please make your reservations by October 24.

October 30, 2001 — 4:45 p.m. — Baptist Building

Please send  tickets @ \$8.50 each      Amount enclosed: \$   
Name   
Phone   
Address   
City  State  Zip

Please make checks payable to MBCB.

Mail to:  
Strategic Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Attn: Elaine Smith  
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

# THE SUIT PROJECT

What can you do?

Men's Ministries groups,  
individuals, churches, etc., can send  
their gifts payable to:  
Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board  
Attention: Men's Ministry Department  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

What is it?

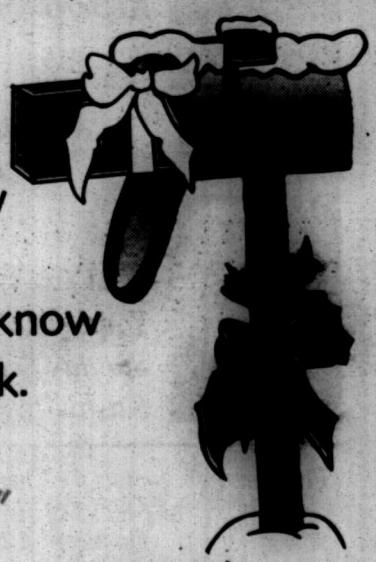
For over 37 years Baptists in Mississippi have  
enjoyed sending new suits to the pastors in new  
work areas. This is our way of letting the  
pastors in these areas of Southern Baptist life know  
that we care about and support them in their work.

Cost: \$130 per suit  
Designate on your check: Suit Project

### NEW FEATURE

This year, as funds are available, we  
hope to send clothing gift certificates  
for the wives.

Mississippi Baptists  
say "Merry Christmas"  
to pastors in the  
Pennsylvania/South  
Jersey and the New  
York Conventions



Sponsored by the  
Men's Ministry  
Department  
Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board

## Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Have you ever said, 'Well, all we can do now is pray?'"

"Sometimes, instead of beginning with prayer, we resort to it after all our other resources have been used. When we come to the end of ourselves, we come to the beginning of God."

For: (1) Poverty Awareness Day (CAC); (2) Steve and Karen Hughes, resort missionaries in Yosemite National Park, ask prayer for more people to attend the Wed. night Bible study. Pray that children coming to Kid's Club will come to church and bring their families.

There is persecution against the pastors who are winning the lost in Central and Southern Asia. Remember one pastor and his family, who are being threatened with death if they don't remove signs from their church building with Bible verses on them and quit baptizing people.

For: (1) "Opening the Doors of Your Sunday School" Conference, South Louisville BC (SS); (2) Ron Hale, state evangelism director of Ill., and his wife Yvonne; (3) Praise-Tim Lewis, pastor, Bethel BC, Troy, Ill., had a four day crusade with 182 decisions for Christ and 73 baptisms.

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board meeting; Baptist Building, 10 a.m.; (2) Ministers' Wives Conference, FBC, Jackson (CAPM); (3) Please pray for Prime Minister Pak Tae-chun of South Korea

For: (1) MBCB Executive Committee meeting; (2) The government-approved registered churches of China are challenged by false teachings which oppose the Communist government. Pray for churches to refuse to embrace teachings that are not biblically sound.

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Fall Banquet, Baptist Building (SM); (2) Mississippi Baptist's annual convention 30-31, FBC, Jackson; (3) Please pray for Prime Minister Pak Tae-chun of South Korea

Bryansk is an ancient region of Russia with a rich history, but a mentality of hopelessness. Quite a few towns in the Bryansk region do not have a single evangelical church. Pray for the people of Bryansk to know the Way, the Truth, and the Life through Christ.

For: (1) Bi-vocational Ministers/Ministers' Wives breakfast, Baptist Building, (CAPM); (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board meeting; immediately following the last session of the convention.

For: (1) "Opening the Doors of Your Sunday School" Conference, Highland BC, Vicksburg (SS); (2) Baptist Building retirees' quarterly luncheon, Baptist Bldg, Sky Room; (3) Pray for a Bible study that began recently in the Santiago house church in Chile.

For: (1) State Senior Adult Leadership Retreat, Camp Garaywa (D&F); (2) Pray for the work of a team of four nurses from N.C. who trained women from a BC in South Africa. The church's ministry has been home health care for people with terminal diseases, primarily AIDS.

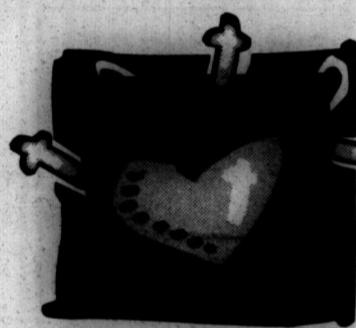
For: (1) Literacy Missions Celebration, Camp Garaywa (WMU); (2) John Maxwell, Leadership Conference; Ridgecrest BC, Madison (Ch. Min); (3) Pray that each Christian in Bogota, Colombia, will be faithful to share God's Word with non-believers with whom he/she has contact.

Liaoning Province's 8.2% adult illiteracy rate is the lowest in China, but the women's rate is three times the men's. Pray for the 2,794,000 illiterate adults to know God and His Word.

20

Give thanks for the BSU team that will go to Columbia to help the Refuge Team reach the internal refugees for Christ. Please pray that the Lord will show them through this scouting trip how they can "plug-in" to what He is doing among the internal refugees.

**FOR THE SAKE OF SAFETY:**  
During this time of national crisis, we will not have the MK Birthday Calendar listing the names and addresses of MKs.



## Youth Ministers Workshop

### "Keeping Your Heart for God"

November 12-14, 2001  
Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville

#### ROB TURNER

Student Evangelist  
Conference Keynote Speaker  
Kettering, Ohio



#### DAVE HUNT

Associate Student Minister  
First Baptist Church  
Nashville



#### CHUCK GARTMAN

Youth Ministry Services  
Sunday School Dept., LifeWay  
Nashville



For more info, contact the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept.  
at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305 (Jackson).

## LAY MISSIONS CONFERENCE

First Baptist Church, Jackson

October 29, 2001

*God is moving through volunteers*

#### Missions Banquet Keynote Speakers

##### Don Dent

IMB Regional Leader  
SE Asia & Oceania

Michael and Valerie Coles  
Seventh Baptist Church  
Baltimore, Md.

##### Special Music:

Luz del Mundo  
(Light of the World)

#### Interest Conferences, 3 p.m.

Agricultural Missions  
Educational Missions  
Volunteers in Missions  
Construction Missions  
Campers on Mission

#### Missions Banquet, 5 p.m.

Dinner  
Music  
Recognitions  
Message

#### Registration Form (Deadline: October 24, 2001)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$ for \_\_\_\_\_ dinner reservations at \$8.50 per person.

Mail to: Men's Ministry Department, MBCB; Lay Missions Banquet  
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Missions Strategy Team

For info contact Jim Didlake in Men's Ministry: Call 1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3338 (Jackson); or E-mail: jdidlake@mbcb.org

## NAMES IN THE NEWS



**Alford, Johnson, and Potts**

**Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson,** ordained Ross Johnson to the ministry on Sept. 9. Steve Potts, pastor, gave the charge to the church. Dino Senesi, director of missions for the Baptist associa-

tion of greater Cincinnati, gave the charge to the candidate. Pictured (from left) are Ralph Alford, chairman of deacons; Johnson, associate pastor of music/administration; and Potts.

A deacon ordination service for John Wilson, James Jackson, and Ray Taylor, was held on Sept. 16 at Friendship Church, McComb. Pictured

(from left) are LaVerne Summerlin, pastor; Wilson; Jackson; Taylor; and Charles Davis, missions director, Pike Association.



**Summerlin, Wilson, Jackson, Taylor, and Davis**



## One size doesn't fit all

Good medical coverage is essential to protect your family's health and finances. But the plan that fits one person might not fit your needs.

The Annuity Board is introducing three Comprehensive Medical Plan options for 2002, allowing you to choose the level of benefits that best meets your family's needs.

To find out if the Annuity Board's life and health coverage is the right size for you, call us toll free at **1-800-262-0511** or visit our Web site,

[www.absbc.org](http://www.absbc.org).



**ANNUTY BOARD**

Pine Grove Church, Picayune, recently presented perfect attendance certificates for Sunday School to Sarah Haselmaier (pictured, left) and Jonathan Mitchell. Mitchell was recognized for three years and Haselmaier for one year. Reggie Bridges is pastor.



**Haselmaier and Mitchell**

Pews, pulpits, baptistries,  
stained glass, carpet,  
steeples, lighting,  
folding doors,  
theater seats.  
**Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery**

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843  
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627

**LifeWay** CHURCH BUSES  
A Service of LifeWay Christian Stores

**CARPENTER BUS SALES, INC.**

**(800) 370-6180**

LifeWay discount

"RAISED ROOF" VANS IN STOCK

- Center Aisle
- Low First Step
- 2/1 Seating with Bucket Seats
- More headroom
- 15 Passengers (no CDL)



2002 Model: \$37,900

2001 Model: \$36,900

[www.carpenterbus.com](http://www.carpenterbus.com)

Nation's #1 church bus dealer

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

### Revival results

**Cedar View, Olive Branch:** Sept. 30-Oct. 3; three professions of faith; Ed Newton, Bartlett, Tenn., evangelist; Robert A. Dottler, pastor.

**New Montpelier Church, Maben,** ordained Jason Curtis Brock to the ministry. Pictured (from left, back row) are Willie Murray, Durell Jones, Marshall Faulkner, Henry Stevens, Jim Murray, deacons; (front row) Joe Stallings, pastor; and Brock.

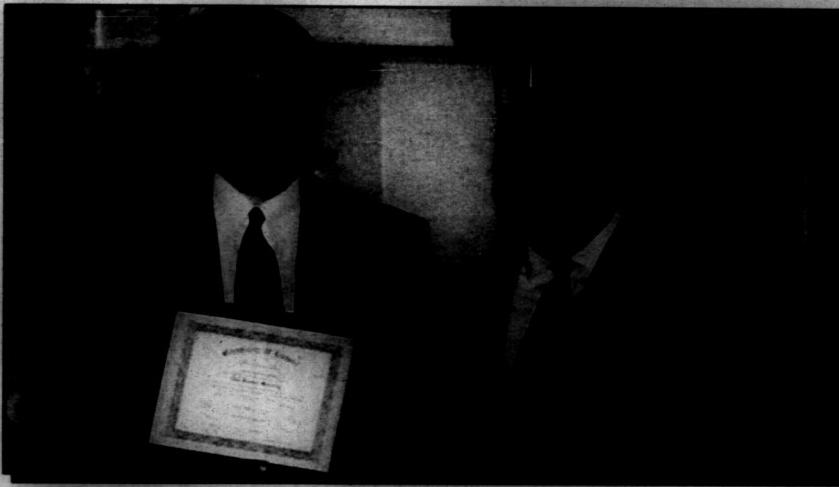
**Branch Church, Morton,** held deacon ordination services for Charles Ray Coward on Sept. 16. Pictured (from left) are James Watts; Michael Giles, pastor; and Charles and Doris Coward.



Deacons of New Montpelier Church, Maben



Ordination service at Branch Church, Morton



**First Church, Magnolia,** licensed John Rushing to the ministry on Sept. 23. He is presently serving as youth minister at Enon Church, Walthall County. Pictured (from left) are Rushing and Barry Ward, pastor.

### BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

**William Carey College** will host the 3rd Annual Pine Belt College Fair on Oct. 29 and Oct. 30, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Student Conference Center and Wilkes Dining Hall on the Hattiesburg campus. Agencies will be on hand to answer questions regarding student loans, financial planning, and specific information on the Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant and the Mississippi Eminent Scholar Grant. Parents Night is scheduled for Oct. 29 from 6-8 p.m. in the Student Conference Center. Breakfast and lunch will be available during the college fair for a nominal fee. For additional information, contact Alissa King at (601) 582-6103.

The William Carey College Speech and Debate Team (Forensics) placed third in overall sweepstakes and third in debate sweepstakes at the

Sixth Annual Bayou Swing Tournament recently held in Houston, Texas. Thirteen Carey students attended the tournament, including Melissa Garber of Hattiesburg; Chad Hampton of Brandon; Meagan Odom of Grand Bay, Ala.; Terry Dale Cruse of Columbus; Jessica Pinion of Florence; Eve McMichael of Morgantown; Vernon Fields of Mendenhall; Jonathan Edwards of Marietta, Ga.; Vanessa Starks of Montgomery, Ala.; Matthew Smith of McComb; Ebony Hardy of Hattiesburg; Letesia Knox of Laurel; and Lance Baggett of Monticello.

**Bartahatchie (Monroe):** Oct. 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. and Tues., 7 p.m.; Wed., senior citizens, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Bobby Cobb, missions director, Tishomingo Association, evangelist; Milton Spotts, pastor.

**Spring Creek, Philadelphia:** Nov. 4-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m. Mike Smithey, evangelist; Ronald Fulton, music; Wayne King, pastor.

**Buck Creek, Richton:** Oct. 28-31; Sunday, 10 a.m., lunch, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Alexander, Adrian, Ga., evangelist; Tim Nelson, Petal, music; Jackie Spell, pastor.

**Griffith Memorial, Jackson:** Oct. 21-24; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mercy River concert, 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Synder, evangelist; Hubert Greer, music; Philip Cooper, pastor.

**Shady Grove, Hazlehurst:** Oct. 29-31; services at 7 p.m. nightly; different speakers each night are Byron Malone, Jackson, Monday; Tom McCormick, Wesson, Tuesday; Floyd McElveen, Petal, Wednesday; Hubert Greer, Hazlehurst, music; Leland Smith, pastor.

**Center Terrace, Canton:** Oct. 21-25; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, evangelist; Ian Richardson, music; Gene Fant Sr., pastor.

**Trinity, Philadelphia:** services each Monday, 7 p.m.; Oct. 22, Danny Dodd, Sarepta, La., speaker; John McCombs, Philadelphia, music; Oct. 29, Chris Vowell, Philadelphia, speaker; Natalie Duncan, Lake, music; Nov. 5, Jimmy Collins, Noxapater, speaker; Scott Gregory, Nanih Waiya, music.

**ATTENTION MINISTERS** and self employed. Finally affordable health insurance call (662) 568-3482. Underwritten by the Mega Life & Health Ins. Group.

**WE SPECIALIZE IN VANS** Featuring 6 to 15 passenger vans, customized and panel vans. Daily and weekly rates. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

**CFI — PEWS, NEW & USED.** Baptaries, steeples, & stained glass, MS & AL. (800) 830-0583.

**INTERIOR ELEMENTS STAINED GLASS STUDIO:** Custom church windows. Columbus - toll free (877) 477-1899.

**ALLEN MDS-40-S DIGITAL ORGAN.** Perfect condition. Contact Jim or Susan Link @ (601) 264-2116.

**NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC.** Old Bibles rebound. Also church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743. Located at 107 North Stone Avenue, Greenwood, MS 38930.

**PARADISE LANES:** Mississippi's smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-ins, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS (601) 372-7700.

**HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS,** Meridian. Design, Fabrication, Repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

**FULL-TIME STUDENT MINISTER** position open at New Chapel Hill Baptist Church in West Monroe, La. Please fax resume to (318) 396-1004 or email NCH@LWOL.com.

**CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY** Free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

**PEARL RIVER GLASS STUDIO, INC.**, (800) 771-3639; www.prgs.com. New stained glass church windows, repair and restoration, baptistery murals.

**USED CHURCH PEWS FOR SALE.** Solid wood, 20 at 15', 8 at shorter lengths, matching pulpit and furniture, all for \$3500.00. Call (601) 758-4066 or (601) 264-8868.

**ORGAN FOR SALE:** 1993 Allen MDS-65, excellent condition, 3-manuals, 54 stops, card reader, 14 speaker cabinets and dolly. For more information call the worship office at (205) 991-5282 or email pkelly@valleydale.org.

**BRANSON, MO CONDO** - sleeps six. Stay 3 nights, 4th free or 5 nights, 6th and 7th free. Free coffee, tea, and cocoa. \$100.00 daily. Register for free return trip. Accommodates large groups. Call early for reservations (662) 746-4632.

**SUPER GRACE BEACH HOUSE** for rent. Excellent for staff retreats or family vacations. Located in a private subdivision at the beach at Fort Morgan, Ala. Visit our website at <http://supergrace.jumptravel.com> or call Allan or Linda Rankin at (888) 784-4025.

**PARKVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH** in Alexandria, Louisiana, is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume and reference to: 2101 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71301.

**GULFSHORES BEACHSIDE CONDO.** Fantastic Fall special - 4 weeknights for \$160; 2-night weekend for \$120. Call Martha at (205) 554-1524 or Don at (251) 968-3222.

**1996 MINI BUS, 29 PASSENGER** with jump seat for tour guide, TV, VCR, reclining seats, back 5 seats can be removed for additional storage. Please call (662) 488-0093.

### NORTH BATESVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

BATESVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

Invites Your Indication of Interest In

**\$450,000**

First Mortgage Bonds

EARN  
UP TO

**8.10%**

Issue Date: October 25, 2001  
Interest Rates Range  
from 5.00% to 8.10%

Bond Maturity Range - 6 months to 20 years. Bonds are available in multiples of \$250. These bonds may be placed in self-directed retirement accounts in most cases.

*This announcement is neither an offer nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. The offer is made only by prospectus. For more complete information about this bond issue, obtain a prospectus which describes all of the particulars of this undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at face value, subject to prior sale.*

For Additional Information Contact:

**Mark McNeece**  
Regional Vice President  
(800) 748-8877  
[mmcneece@rivesleavell.com](mailto:mmcneece@rivesleavell.com)

**Rives  
Leavell  
& Co.**  
Since 1963

733 North State Street  
Jackson, MS 39202

**SEEKING FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH.** Contact: Woodland Baptist Church, 3033 Ridge Road, Columbus, MS 39705. Telephone (662) 327-6689.

**SEEKING PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Send resume to Center Ridge Baptist Church, 3150 Center Ridge Road, Yazoo City, MS 39194; ATTN: Pam Crawford. Call (662) 746-1528 or 746-9611 for more information.

**SOCIETY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF OAKVALE** is seeking a minister of music. Send resume to: Russell Williamson, Rt. 1 Box 15A, Oakvale, MS 39656 or call (601) 792-2095.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RICHLAND** is seeking pianist. Call (601) 939-1715.

## WHITHER EVOLUTION?

### Editor:

The October 4 issue of The Baptist Record included an article entitled, PBS series on evolution garners challenge, in which the writer insinuated that scientists from the Discovery Institute challenged evolutionary theory. A careful reading of what was actually said, however, reveals a different picture.

Scientists do not question whether evolution happened. They do question the mechanisms by which evolution

occurred. The scientists at the Discovery Institute only questioned the PBS series for stating that natural selection and random mutations were the only mechanisms for evolution.

This is a common, underhanded anti-evolution tactic by those with a hidden agenda to get their bogus "creation science" into public schools, even though every last piece of so-called evidence they use for support has floundered.

What the anti-evolution creationists are doing is declaring that the Bible alone is God's

Word. The Bible tells us to look not to the Scriptures alone, but to nature and the heavens (universe) as well to see God's hands at work.

Everything about evolution suggests God's intelligent design in nature. Everything about the Big Bang theory points to God's intelligent design of the universe. Thus, evolution equals intelligent design by God.

I'll be happy to accept any challenge to public debate on this subject.

Michael Williams  
Jackson

## FRAGMENTS COMPILED

### Editor:

I have compiled Fragments, short articles I authored during my tenure as editor of The Baptist Record. The book includes The Mississippi Tablecloth, The Nickel Tablet, Death Be Not Proud, etc. The price of the book is \$6 (plus \$1 postage) and is available upon request from me at 202 McDonald Drive, Clinton, MS 39056.

Guy Henderson  
Clinton



## HOECOMINGS

**Carey Chapel, Red Banks:** Oct. 21; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and afternoon singing; Jack Gregory, speaker; Crimson River, special music; O. E. Langner Jr., pastor.

**Bethel, Drew:** Oct. 21; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch; singing with Promised of Coila, 1:30 p.m.; Larry Livingston, guest speaker; Larry Chouccoli, pastor.

**Glendale, Leland:** Oct. 28; 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; singing in sanctuary with Ferrell Stokes and sister Melvie White, guest singers; Mark Pilgrim, pastor.

**New Hope, Mt. Olive:** Nov. 4; services, 11 a.m.; followed by dinner on the grounds.

**Salem, Tylertown:** Oct. 28; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and fellowship; afternoon singing; Rob Schepers, minister of music; Billy Murphy, former pastor, speaker; Bradley Rushing, pastor.

**Antioch (Greene):** 85th anniversary; Oct. 21; worship, 10:30 a.m.; Jim Futral, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, guest speaker; 12 noon, lunch; 1:30 p.m., fellowship and historical highlights in designated rooms; Jimmy Holcomb, pastor.

**Shady Grove, Hazlehurst:** 78th anniversary; Oct. 28; services, 10:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, 11:30 a.m.; singing, 1:30 p.m.; Danny Watkins, Birmingham, Ala., guest speaker; Leland Smith, pastor.

**Mt. Carmel, Edinburg:** Oct. 21; worship, 10:30 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; Keith Fulton, pastor, speaker.

**Mt. Vernon, West:** Oct. 21; Tim Avalon, special music at 10 a.m.; Jerald Welch, missions director, Holmes Association, speaker at 11 a.m. service, followed by lunch.

**Woolmarket, Biloxi:** Oct. 21; 11 a.m.; covered dish at noon; The Challengers, guest singers, 1:30 p.m.; Argile Smith, guest speaker; Steve Wood, music; Paul Crowley, pastor.

**Ludlow (Scott):** Oct. 28; 10 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; Jim Burns, Standing Pine Church, Walnut Grove, guest speaker; Dwight Cooper, music; M. L. Wallace, pastor.

## BOOK AVAILABLE

### Editor:

I have just published a 44-page book entitled, The Complete Evolution Refuter, which contains answers to all of the most commonly-progressed arguments for the theory of evolution found in public school textbooks and the news media. I am making this book available free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis, as long as they last, to readers of The Baptist Record.

I have been studying this subject for over 34 years, and have spoken on this subject to many churches and Christian schools, and at several colleges.

This book contains a summary of some of the strongest arguments against evolution from these lectures and debates. If you would like to receive a copy, please write me at 1052 Shiloh Road, Port Gibson, MS 39150. Telephone: (601) 437-5499.

J.C. Brady, pastor  
Shiloh Church, Port Gibson

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.*

*Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.*

*Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)*

*Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.*

*Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.*

*No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.*

*When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.*

United States Postal Service Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation		13. Publication Title <b>THE BAPTIST RECORD</b>		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below <b>9-27-01</b>	
1. Publication Title <b>THE BAPTIST RECORD</b>	2. Publication Number <b>0 0 0 5 - 5 7 7 8</b>	3. Filing Date <b>9-26-01</b>			
4. Issue Frequency <b>WEEKLY - EXCEPT JULY 4 AND CHRISTMAS</b>	5. Number of Issues Published Annually <b>50</b>	6. Annual Subscription Price <b>\$8.35</b>			
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4) <b>515 MISSISSIPPI ST. - JACKSON MS 39201 - HINDS</b>		Contact Person <b>BETTY ANNE BAILEY</b>		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Next to Filing Date
		Telephone <b>601.292.3221</b>		<b>102,305</b>	<b>101,089</b>
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) <b>MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION - P O BOX 530 - JACKSON MS 39205</b>		9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) <b>MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION - P O BOX 530 - JACKSON MS 39205</b>		10. Total Number of Copies (Not press run)	
				<b>(1) Paid Requested Outside County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541, (include advertiser's paid and exchange copies)</b>	<b>101,417</b>
				<b>(2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541</b>	<b>0</b>
				<b>(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution</b>	<b>0</b>
				<b>(4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS</b>	<b>0</b>
		11. Total Paid and Requested Circulation (Sum of 15a, 15c, 15d, and 15f)		<b>101,417</b>	<b>99,910</b>
		12. Free Distribution by Mail (Carriers or other means)		<b>663</b>	<b>954</b>
		(1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
		(2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
		(3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS		<b>0</b>	<b>- 0</b>
		13. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e)		<b>663</b>	<b>954</b>
		14. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15d)		<b>102,080</b>	<b>100,864</b>
		15. Copies not Distributed		<b>225</b>	<b>225</b>
		16. Total (Sum of 15g and 15h)		<b>102,305</b>	<b>101,089</b>
		17. Percent Paid and Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15d times 100)		<b>99</b>	<b>99</b>
18. Publication required, Will be printed in part <b>X</b>		19. Issue of this publication <b>10-18-01</b>		20. Publication not required.	
21. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner <b>John A. Becknell</b> , EDITOR				Date <b>9-27-01</b>	
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil penalties.					
Instructions to Publishers					
1. Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.					
2. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.					
3. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.					
4. Item 15b, Copies not Distributed, must include (1) newsstand copies originally stated on Form 3541, and returned to the publisher, (2) estimated returns from news agents, and (3), copies for office use, leftovers, spoiled, and all other copies not distributed.					
5. If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.					
6. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.					
7. Item 17 must be signed.					
Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.					
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (See Instructions on Reverse)					
13. Known Bondholders, Mortgagors, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None					
14. Complete Mailing Address					
15. Full Name					
16. Publication required, Will be printed in part <b>X</b>					
17. Issue of this publication <b>10-18-01</b>					
18. Publication not required.					
19. Date <b>9-27-01</b>					
20. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil penalties.					
21. Instructions to Publishers					
22. Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.					
23. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.					
24. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.					
25. Item 15b, Copies not Distributed, must include (1) newsstand copies originally stated on Form 3541, and returned to the publisher, (2) estimated returns from news agents, and (3), copies for office use, leftovers, spoiled, and all other copies not distributed.					
26. If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.					
27. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.					
28. Item 17 must be signed.					
29. Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.					
30. 10. Known Bondholders, Mortgagors, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None					
31. Complete Mailing Address					
32. Full Name					
33. Publication required, Will be printed in part <b>X</b>					
34. Issue of this publication <b>10-18-01</b>					
35. Publication not required.					
36. Date <b>9-27-01</b>					
37. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil penalties.					
38. Instructions to Publishers					
39. Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.					
40. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.					
41. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.					
42. Item 15b, Copies not Distributed, must include (1) newsstand copies originally stated on Form 3541, and returned to the publisher, (2) estimated returns from news agents, and (3), copies for office use, leftovers, spoiled, and all other copies not distributed.					
43. If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.					
44. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.					
45. Item 17 must be signed.					
46. Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.					
47. Known Bondholders, Mortgagors, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None					
48. Complete Mailing Address					
49. Full Name					
50. Publication required, Will be printed in part <b>X</b>					
51. Issue of this publication <b>10-18-01</b>					
52. Publication not required.					
53. Date <b>9-27-01</b>					
54. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil penalties.					
55. Instructions to Publishers					
56. Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.					
57. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.					
58. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.					
59. Item 15b, Copies not Distributed, must include (1) newsstand copies originally stated on Form 3541, and returned to the publisher, (2) estimated returns from news agents, and (3), copies for office use, leftovers, spoiled, and all other copies not distributed.					
60. If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.					
61. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.					
62. Item 17 must be signed.					
63. Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.					
64. Known Bondholders, Mortgagors, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None					
65. Complete Mailing Address					
66. Full Name					
67. Publication required, Will be printed in part <b>X</b>					
68. Issue of this publication <b>10-18-01</b>					
69. Publication not required.					
70. Date <b>9-27-01</b>					
71. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil penalties.					
72. Instructions to Publishers					
73. Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.					
74. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a					

## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Rules for the recipe

**Titus 1:5-2:15**

**By Wayne Marshall**

Two young girls were preparing to bake a cake for their parents. They found the recipe in a cookbook and began to follow it.

Trouble came when they began to alter the ingredients. One did not like eggs, so they left them out. The other loved vanilla so they tripled the amount it called for. Needless to say the result was a disaster.

Just as recipes are followed in baking so must they be followed in spiritual growth. In today's lesson we answer the question, "How does the church build a strong relationship with the family?" This recipe has four valid ingredients.

**Productive ministries (1:5,9).** Ministers do not have

to be paid clergy (thank goodness!). In this passage Paul gives a reason to minister.

He says, "for this cause" reflecting a particular task. He further states the responsibility of that ministry when he makes clear the command to "set in order."

The productivity of a servant of God in the church is to keep a proper perspective of God's call and to clarify the aspects of that call to other members of the church family. The task is one of encouragement and reliability. Paul is quick to point out the Biblical qualifications of the "elders" chosen.

It is no easy task to keep God's people encouraged in the faith yet disciplined to the guidelines of growth that must be present in every church fam-



ily. Titus is reminded of the need for reliability within the body of Christ as all members grow together in Jesus.

**Productive models (2:1-5).** All of us have heard the old axiom "Lead, follow, or get out of the way." Perhaps that is a little strong for the church family but the point is clearly made and well taken.

It is the responsibility of older people to teach the younger ones things through their influence and conduct. Their example, according to Paul, illustrates three very necessary ingredients in church and family relationships.

First, they are to be faithful models. Verse one admonishes, "build truthful instruction" (sound doctrine) into each other's lives. This is done through time spent together.

A second ingredient is to be models of fellowship. Old and young must spend time together for the basic teachings of

holiness, serious spiritual growth (sober - v. 4), and family values to be instilled.

These two ideas bring on a third: models of family. The body of Christ teaches by encouragement, influence, and example. Dr. Adrian Rogers has said, "Lead with love, life, and labor." These are the callings of the church toward all of its families.

**Productive mentors (2:6-8).** As I walked through the hallway of church last night I found several of our rooms being used. One-on-one conversations were taking place as ladies met with ladies to talk about spiritual things.

Men were meeting with other men in the activity of studying and sharing spiritual truth. We call it our "mentoring" ministry. More experienced believers share for a season of time truths of the Christian faith with others.

Paul uses verses 6-8 to remind the believers in Crete that serious truth is needed (be sober). He encouraged them to

have a serious testimony. They are to be a pattern. The word actually means a "die cast."

In Vacation Bible School we made crafts with plaster of paris. The mold was "die cast" into a certain form that then became the basis of our decorations. To be a pattern says the same thing to each of us as believers today. A final encouragement suggests having a healthy or uplifting speech. Only believers can instill this truth into other believers.

**Productive message (2:11-15).** Very simply put Paul says that the family of faith shares these common threads: the cause of Christ (v. 12), the course of Christ (v. 13), and the concern of Christ (v. 14) are woven together to produce a powerful message of salvation's plan and practice.

May each of us be the encourager to one another in this family of faith we call God's church.

*Marshall is pastor of Longview Heights Church in Olive Branch.*

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Alert in Spirit

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

**By Dell Scoper**

When is the Lord going to return? That question has been on the minds of Christians for centuries. Predictions about the end of the world and the second coming of Christ are not unique to our time. In every age there have been those who interpreted the signs of the times as indicating Jesus' imminent return.

To be consumed with efforts to pinpoint such a date is a mission of futility, because Jesus plainly stated in Mk. 13:32 and Acts 1:7 that God has chosen not to reveal this information to man.

**Christ will return unexpectedly — be aware (vv. 1-3).** Verse one reads like the reprimand of an exasperated parent. One paraphrase has the Thessalonians asking Paul, "tell

us precisely..." to which Paul replied, in effect, "You know precisely that we cannot know precisely."

He had apparently taught them all that he knew about the Parousia, an eschatological event whose date was known "only to the Father." Hence, such speculation was futile. "Times and dates" was a familiar phrase used to refer to the end times — "times" (chronos) denoting a sequence or lapse of time, a matter of duration, and "dates" (kairos) referring to an epoch of time with the emphasis on what the last days might hold rather than the time remaining before the end.

Paul said this day will come as "a thief in the night," which means an unexpected, sudden, threatening event for unbelievers, totally unprepared for the



thief's entrance into the home.

"Peace and safety" is another Old Testament phrase used by the prophets Amos, Micah, and Ezekiel to describe a false sense of security,

Just as in the days of Noah, the prevailing attitude will be business as usual. While the unbelieving world is saying, "peace and safety," that dreaded moment will come upon the unbeliever and there will be no escape.

However, the Christian can live securely with the certainty that although this day will surprise us, nevertheless, we can be joyfully expectant if we are in a state of constant readiness.

**Christians are not to be surprised — be expectant (vv. 4-5).** "But you, brothers," emphasizes again the contrast between believers and unbelievers. Darkness is more than ignorance; it is spiritual separation from God.

Having stated what believers are not, Paul describes what they are, adding "all" to make

his statement inclusive. "Sons of light," a Hebrew idiom (Luke 16:6; Eph. 5:8) means one is characterized by or belongs to light. God is called "the father of lights" (James 1:17).

"Sons of the day" has no reference to the day of the Lord, but is used in association with living one's life in the light.

**Be alert and self-controlled (vv. 6-8).** Paul's "but you, brothers," emphasizes that since we are sons of the day, we are not to sleep. This type sleep does not refer to those "asleep in Christ," or to physical sleep. This is a sleep characterized by moral and spiritual laxity and a lifestyle of careless indifference to matters of eternity.

The Christian is to be not only alert (vigilant) and calm, but like a watchman on the walls of a city, armed and poised for conflict. The hope of salvation is the believer's sure expectation of being rescued from God's judgement for an eternity of fellowship with him.

That hope is our safeguard against carelessness or defeat, certain to bring victory in time of conflict.

**Christians are to be encouragers — be constructive (vv. 9-11).** Paul's use of the verb "appoint" does not mean "predestine." "Appoint" means that God acted in history to provide the way of salvation through his Son, who died for (on behalf of, in place of) us.

For the Christian, God's divine purpose is not condemnation, but blessedness because of his victory over death, which means that our eternal destiny is not affected by physical death. Our life is bound to Christ's whether we are awake (alive when he returns) or asleep (dead prior to his coming.)

With such a glorious guarantee, Paul exhorts the Thessalonians to "encourage one another and build each other up." Here is an unconditional challenge to be a constructive Christian, to strengthen even the weakest member within our family of faith in the certain hope that Jesus will return.

*Scoper is a member of First Church, Laurel.*

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST  
*Record*

# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242  
e-mail: bcv1@misnet.com

## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

### SEPTEMBER 1-30, 2001 MEMORIALS

**Mr. Walter Lauren Matthews**  
Gulf State Fox Hunters Assoc  
**Mrs. Gwen E. Clow**  
Mrs. Percy R. Fayle  
Mrs. Frances M. Liptrap  
Mr. & Mrs. T. C. Matthews  
Ms. Bertie M. Altman  
Mr. & Mrs. Eric T. Johnson  
**Mr. Charles T. Maxxon**  
Allen & Virginia Ann Butler  
Mr. & Mrs. Murry Mitchell  
Sidney Ellis SSC, Alta Woods BC  
**Mr. Jhue May**  
Mrs. Anna W. Simmons  
**Mrs. Jesse McBride**  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Jaggers  
**Mildred McCormick**  
Ms. Maida Stegall  
**Mrs. Lottie McGrath**  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dew  
**Mr. Ricky McGregor**  
Mike & Susie Daughdrill  
**Norah McLemore**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Smithey  
**Ethel McVey**  
Mr. Charles W. Holmes  
**Edna Merck**  
Mrs. Carole L. Mattox  
**Mrs. Myrtle Jean Miller**  
New Hope Baptist Church  
**Ben Mitchell**  
Mrs. Nellie L. Wilkies  
**Mrs. Anne Mitchell**  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Shelton  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Champion  
**Mrs. Lucille Mitchell**  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D. James  
**Mrs. Ray Mitchell**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Gore III  
**Charles Edward Moak**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald E. Carlyle  
Sarah Jordan  
Jake Ritchey  
Polie Ritchey  
Linda Shell  
Ms. Pam Waaser  
Faye Sokol  
**Mrs. Roda Moore**  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold  
**Whinford Morrow**  
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Tyler  
Ms. Leslie B. Winslow

June Robertson  
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Randall  
Mr. Charles E. Robertson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry M. Howell

**Scott Pounds**  
Steve, Cindy & Chase McGarrh

**Mrs. Agnes Powell**

Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Hilton

Ms. Mary Lou Blair

**Mavis Allen Rainey**

Mrs. Dit Perry Johnson

**James Byron Read**

Lynn & Myron Johnson

**Mr. C. P. Reddoch**

Adult 5 SSC, Cleary BC-

Florence

**Mrs. Mildred Decker Reese**

Frances & Chad Bates

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Tadlock

Mrs. Dorris Williams

Hon. Cynthia D. Davis

**Mrs. Ada Reeves**

Thirteenth Ave Pharmacy &

Staff

**Dr. Rick Peden**

Conrad & Gloria Bird

**Mrs. Hermie Peeler**

Mrs. Dot W. Shaw

**Cecil Wayne Peoples**

Mrs. J. O. Hollis & Family

**Frances D. Pittman**

Mr. & Mrs. Elbert M. Downs

**June Robertson**

Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Randall

**Mr. Charles E. Robertson**

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry M. Howell

**James Rogers**

Ms. Maida Stegall

**Mrs. Lela Rogers**

Jan & Tommy Allison

Nancy & Conley Moak

Richard & Libby Rogers

Tony & Linda Rogers

**Mr. V. C. Rosales**

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Spears

**James F. "Billy" Runnels**

Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Shelton

**Mr. Runnels**

Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Knight

**Mrs. Ouida Jewell Russell**

Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Keeler

Dean & Cynthia Tanner

**Mrs. Syril Safely**

Mr. & Mrs. K. F. Robinson

**Louise Herring Sanders**

Ms. Katherine W. Melton &

Family

**Mr. Russell Sasser**

Dr. & Mrs. Roy W. Daughdrill

Mr. & Mrs. Clinton Martin

**Rev. Glendon Dale Saucier**

Ms. Fay M. Donegan

**Sarah Frances Savell**

Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Randall

**Mrs. Lillian B. Scott**

Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Parsons

**Marilyn Sharp**

Mr. & Mrs. Fred L. Gaddis

**Mrs. Dixie Shaw**

Peggy & Earl Gillon

**Mrs. Louise B. Shipp**

Mrs. Beulah Abel

**Tina Speights Silver**

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges

**Jimmy "Sunshine" Simpson, Jr.**

The Jeff McClelland Family

**Nita Hammond Sims**

Mr. & Mrs. Rhen W. Pierce

**Brenda Wilson Sledge**

Mr. Charles W. Holmes

**Mrs. Emma S. Smith**

Mrs. Virginia B. Carpenter

**Birdsong**

**Mrs. Hattie Smith**

Mr. & Mrs. Hayes Branscome

**Wenzi Smith**

Mr. & Mrs. Billy M. Gilliland

**Mrs. Lucy Spain**

Billie McGlaun

**Mr. Dick Spencer**

Dr. & Mrs. James W. Lewis

**Mrs. Lorene Spencer**

Bobby Phillips

**Mrs. O. E. Phillips**

**John R. Sproles**

Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Shelton

**Rev. S. A. Stephenson**

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dew

**Dennis Stevens**

Mr. & Mrs. Dick Catledge

Mrs. John B. Easter

Mr. Charles W. Holmes

Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Lynn

Mrs. Margaret Lynn

Mrs. Garth S. Ingram

**Elisha Stevens**

Mr. & Mrs. Robert N. Walters

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Fuqua

**Mr. Dennis Stevens**

Mr. & Mrs. Leo N. Scruggs

**Dibrell Strain**

Mrs. Royce R. Thompson

**Lela Gertrude Thunes**

Dr. & Mrs. Ray Streck

**Ester Pierce Thompson**

Mr. & Mrs. Brooks E. Patterson

**Marci Ulmer**

Thirteenth Ave Pharmacy & Staff

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Smith

**Marci C. Ulmer**

Mr. & Mrs. Joe T. Woodyear III

**Mrs. Tommie Upchurch**

Mr. & Mrs. Gwinn H. Gordon

**Mrs. Onie Mae Vick**

Carlisle SSC, FBC-Grenada

Mr. & Mrs. Richie Defenbaugh

**Ching Waddle**

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Selden

**Mrs. Mondelle Waldrop**

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry M. Howell

**J. C. Walker**

Mr. Gordie Whittington

**Malcolm Wallace**

Mr. & Mrs. Jewell K. Dykes

**Erbie Ware**

Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Shelton

**Leonard Warren**

Mrs. Ruthie M. Warren

**Mark B. Weston**

Mrs. J. W. Callender Jr.

**Mrs. Gertrude White**

Mrs. Tina W. Dyess

Mr. & Mrs. T. W. West

**H. A. Wigley, Jr.**

Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Shelton

**Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Wild**

Mrs. Fern M. Lyter

**Thomas L. Wiley, III**

Mrs. Evelyn H. Vaughn

Ruth SSC, FBC-Tupelo

Ms. Hope H. Hawkins

Mr. & Mrs. J. Richard Young Jr.

**Mrs. Jessie Wilkerson**

Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Fortenberry

**Mary Ann Wilkes**

Mr. & Mrs. Julian E. Sides Jr.

**Mr. Fred Williams**

Mr. & Mrs. Leo N. Scruggs

**Mrs. Florene Williamson**

Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Fortenberry

**Edris Ray Willis**

# Group to battle ACLU over school displays

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Jay Sekulow-led American Center for Law and Justice (ACLU) announced Oct. 9 it is offering to defend any school district or student organization that displays "God Bless America" in school settings.

exert a heavy hand of censorship," said Jay Sekulow, ACLU chief counsel.

"The ACLU is out of step with the law and is reacting in a manner that is totally absurd and irresponsible. The message, 'God Bless America,' is constitutionally protected speech and the ACLU's legal analysis is both skewed and very troubling," he said.

Sekulow said the ACLU is sending a letter to California's Rocklin Unified School District offering its legal services to defend the display which was placed on a marquee outside the Breen Elementary School following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C.

The ACLU, in an Oct. 3 letter to the school, contended the words "God Bless America" reflect a "hurtful, divisive message" and "must be replaced immediately."

The ACLU letter, from its San Francisco-based chapter, claimed the display is a "clear violation of the California and United States constitutions, as well as the California Education Code."

The school district has said

the sign will not be taken down, despite the ACLU's demand.

"I would like someone to explain how 'God Bless America' hurts anyone," the school district's trustee president, Mark Forbes, told the Sacramento Bee. Forbes said he was "disgusted" by the ACLU demand.

About 250 people gathered at the school for a rally Oct. 5 in support of the "God Bless America" display, with many in the crowd wearing red, white, and blue clothing.

The ACLU, in its offer to defend the display of "God Bless America" to all school districts and student organizations nationwide, noted that it is a public interest law firm that does not charge any client for its legal services.

A memo outlining why "God Bless America" is constitutionally protected speech is posted on the ACLU website at [www.aclj.org](http://www.aclj.org). The ACLU, which focuses on constitutional issues involving pro-family, pro-life and pro-liberty cases, is headquartered in Virginia Beach, Va.

Sekulow said the ACLU is simply wrong in its assessment that the message "God Bless America" violates the separation of church and state.

"There is no legal reason why a school district cannot

display a sign that says, 'God Bless America,' if it so desires," Sekulow said.

"God Bless America," he said, "is constitutionally protected speech and does not violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. In fact, it is clear that the ACLU is attempting to censor a California school district by pressuring it to remove the sign."

ACLU attorney Margaret Crosby told the Sacramento Bee that the elementary school is "dividing its young students along religious lines" and school officials are "hurting and isolating their school children of minority faiths when they should be supporting them and the values of pluralism and tolerance."

The ACLU demand was prompted by a parent who was "greatly troubled" by the "God Bless America" display, Crosby told the newspaper.

The display, she said, "implies only students who share the faith are truly patriotic."

Phillip Trujillo, an attorney representing the school district, meanwhile told the Bee, "I would like to think that the ACLU would not attempt to preclude or inhibit the free expression of patriotism and goodwill at a time when it is most appropriate, helpful, or even healing."

The offer follows an American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) demand that a school district in northern California remove a sign that includes the words, "God Bless America."

"At a time when America desires to exhibit patriotism, the ACLU sees fit to undermine the Constitution by attempting to

## Missouri exec resigns, cites Project 1000 takeover

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP & BP) — Jim Hill, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC), resigned Oct. 4 following a special called meeting of the MBC executive board.

Hill's resignation followed the board's vote to extend to the 48-year-old Missouri Baptist executive a 12-month severance package. Hill's resignation is effective the end of the working day Oct. 19. In a statement to the board later released to the media, Hill gave five reasons for his departure:

- ◆ His diminishing leadership role with elected and appointed MBC leaders. "Most of the standing convention committees now function without my input and are not responsive to my suggestions and recommendations," Hill said. "I do not agree with the decisions and recommendations some committees are preparing or with their approach to their responsibilities."

- ◆ Increasing division on the executive board that Hill feels he would not be able to breach, especially after fundamentalists gain a majority on the board following the MBC annual meeting at the end of October. "I believe the new executive board will be unlikely to support many of the recommendations I would make during the coming year. It is clear that some board members do not have confidence in my leadership."

- ◆ Concern that fundamentalist leaders might move to de-fund and instruct the executive board to file lawsuits against The Baptist Home and other MBC-related institutions that have removed themselves from the control of the convention's nominating committee. "Some are interested in filing litigation against these institutions," he said. "I certainly hope these actions are not approved by the messengers. However, I believe they will be recommended. I do not feel I can be involved in the filing of lawsuits against any of our institutions."

- ◆ An increasing inability to implement the MBC's new strategic plan. "My primary passion has been leading Missouri Baptists to implement our New Directions strategy as we seek to help our churches become healthy and effective," Hill stated.

"However, it seems clear to me that in some situations my leadership has become the issue. Some individuals have been hesitant to become involved in New Directions because they do not trust me."

"I regret an environment that would cause people that do not know me to decide they do not trust me."

- ◆ Basic disagreement with the conservative group that has now taken over the convention's leadership. "It is clear that Project 1000 leaders are selecting those that will serve in our convention and are seeking to determine the future agenda for the convention and our staff," he said. "I do not agree with the Project 1000 agenda or the political processes they have utilized to implement it."

Hill noted that he has no immediate plans for his next job. "Bettie Jo and I have talked about it; we have never resigned a ministry not knowing where we were going, but we felt like this time that was what the Lord wanted us to do," he said. "I think the severance package was generous, and will allow us [to seek another avenue of ministry] without undue pressure."

MBC president and chairman of the board Robert D. Collins, pastor of Plaza Heights Church, Blue Springs, issued the following statement following Hill's resignation: "This process has been handled in a

Christ-like manner. Dr. Hill has been very forthright in his discussion of what he thought would be best for his family and future ministry, as well as the MBC. The severance agreement has been agreed upon by Dr. Hill and approved by the board. "We wish him God's best in the days and months to come."

In a press conference following the announcement of Hill's resignation, Collins described the event, as well as the recent actions by several institutions to remove themselves from MBC control, as "tragic."

However, when asked if he should share part of the blame as a participant in the fundamentalist Project 1000 movement, Collins said: "I'm not sure that I would make a connection... As far as the connection between those [actions of Project 1000 supporters] and the institutions and agencies

becoming self-perpetuating and Dr. Hill's decision, I can't speak for them or him. I don't necessarily believe that."

Randy Fullerton, pastor of Fee Fee Church in suburban St. Louis and chairman of the administrative committee, vehemently disagreed with Collins' assessment of the situation, saying Project 1000 had everything to do with Hill's resignation.

"It all has to do with their leadership style, it all has to do with their refusal to cooperate with him," Fullerton said. "He could see the handwriting on the wall when the committees refuse to work with him and then the nominating committee, the continuing review committee, and the credentials committee all reported to Project 1000."

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
copyright 1999

QFBLOFH, VG CFUIPFE  
CLFNQLFH, QBNQ HIN  
ZIE DQIMFH NQF TIIL IW  
NQRM KILUE LRDQ RH  
WBRNQ, BHE QFRML IW  
NQF ORHZEIV KQRDQ  
QF QBNQ TLIVRMFE NI  
NQFV NQBN UIPF QRV?  
SBVFN NKI:WRPF

Clue: T = P

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews Nine: Twelve.